SPECIAL FEATURE NO. 3-1570 MAY 2, 1978
ARTHUR SMALL

THE TRIPLE CROWN ---THE KENTUCKY DERBY OF 1978
(INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

(EDITORS: NOTE: FOR BROADCAST PRIOR TO THE RUNNING OF DERBY THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 6TH)

VOICE: ON SATURDAY, THE SIXTH OF MAY, DEVOTEES OF "THE SPORT OF KINGS" WILL FOLLOW THE FIRST JEWEL OF THE TRIPLE CROWN OF HORSE RACING, THE KENTUCKY DERBY.

ONLY TEN THOROUGHBREDS HAVE WON THE TRIPLE CROWN IN THE MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF HORSE RACING, FOR THIS IS A GRUELING TEST OF SPEED, STAMINA AND COURAGE FOR THOROUGHBREDS. FIRST, THERE IS THE KENTUCKY DERBY. TWO WEEKS LATER THE PREAKNESS, WHICH IS FOLLOWED IN THREE SHORT WEEKS BY THE BELMONT. OF THESE THREE GREAT RACES, THE KENTUCKY DERBY IS, PERHAPS, THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- LEDFORD

"IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT RACE TO AN OWNER, A TRAINER AND A JOCKEY IN THE UNITED STATES THAT'S HELD EACH YEAR. IT IS, OF COURSE, FOR THREE YEAR OLDS. BUT, IF A HORSE CAN WIN THE KENTUCKY DERBY IT IMMEDIATELY ENHANCES HIS VALUE GOING INTO THE STUD."

VOICE: CAWOOD LEDFORD, VETERAN RACE CALLER FOR RADIO STATION W-H-A-S IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, WHO HAS DESCRIBED THE KENTUCKY DERBY A SCORE OF TIMES FOR NATION-WIDE RADIO AUDIENCES LISTENING TO THE COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- LEDFORD

"IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT RACE. AND, I THINK, MOST HORSEMEN AGREE THAT IT IS THE ONE THEY MOST WANT TO WIN."

VOICE: BUT THE KENTUCKY DERBY WASN'T ALWAYS CONSIDERED TO BE A CLASSIC RACE. ONE OF THE GREATEST THOROUGHBREDS OF ALL TIME, "MAN O'WAR," BORN AND REARED IN KENTUCKY, A HORSE THAT WON BOTH THE PREAKNESS AND THE BELMONT, WASN'T EVEN ENTERED IN THE DERBY.

HOW THEN DID THE DERBY GROW IN POPULARITY TO BECOME THE GREATEST ONE-DAY SPORTS EVENT IN THE WORLD? AGAIN, CAWOOD LEDFORD.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- LEDFORD

"MATT WINN, I SUPPOSE, DESERVES THE CREDIT FOR THAT BECAUSE... WE DON"T LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE IT HERE, IN OUR HOME CITY OF LOUISVILLE BUT ... IN THE VERY EARLY DAYS THE DERBY WAS NOT EVEN CLOSE TO THE STATURE OF THE PREAKNESS OR OF THE BELMONT, THE OTHER TWO LEGS OF THE TRIPLE CROWN. THE PREAKNESS, OF COURSE, IS RUN IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, AND THE BELMONT IN ELMONT, NEW YORK. COLONEL MATT WINN CAME ALONG, WAS HERE FOR MANY, MANY YEARS. HE WAS A P.R. (PUBLIC RELATIONS) MAN OF GREAT STATURE. HE BUILT THE DERBY TO WHERE IT IS, THE PREMIERE HORSE RACE IN THE UNITED STATES. NOW, WITH SO MANY AMERICAN HORSES BEING SHIPPED OVERSEAS, TO EUROPE, TO JAPAN, TO AUSTRALIA, TO SOUTH AMERICA, IT'S NOW WATCHED, I THINK, ALL OVER THE WORLD."

VOICE: WINNING THE TRIPLE CROWN IS THE GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT IN THOROUGHBRED RACING. JUST TEN THOROUGHBREDS HAVE WON IT IN THE PAST 102 YEARS.

THE JOCKEY CLUB ESTIMATES THAT MORE THAN SEVEN-HUNDRED-THOUSAND FOALS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED BY AMERICAN BREEDERS DURING THE PAST 102 YEARS, SO THE ODDS AGAINST COMING UP WITH A TRIPLE CROWN CHAMPION ARE AWESOME.

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- LEDFORD

"WELL, OF COURSE, THE TRIPLE CROWN IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO WIN. CITATION (THE 8TH HORSE TO WIN) WON IT IN 1948, AND THEN WE WENT TWENTY-FIVE YEARS UNTIL SECRETARIAT CAME

TAPE: (CONT'D) ALONG AND WON THE THREE RACES, THE TRIPLE CROWN. PEOPLE WERE SAYING IT COULDN'T BE DONE ANYMORE ... THERE WERE TOO MANY HORSES BORN EVERY YEAR AND THEY WERE TOO GOOD. BUT THEN NOT LONG AFTER SECRETARIAT SWEPT IT, LAST YEAR, SEATTLE SLEW DID IT. /BUT IT IS A VERY DIFFICULT TASK AND A HORSE MUST BE A VERY GOOD HORSE, A VERY SOUND HORSE AND A VERY VERSATILE HORSE. THE KENTUCKY DERBY IS THE FIRST TIME THAT ANY OF THE THREE YEAR OLDS THAT HAVE RACED EXCLUSIVELY IN THIS COUNTRY HAVE GONE AS FAR AS A MILE AND-A-QUARTER. (TEN FURLONGS) THEN, THEY SHORTEN THAT UP WHEN THEY GO TO THE PREAKNESS. (NINE AND ONE-HALF FURLONGS ... ONE MILE AND THREE-SIXTEENTHS) THE TURNS ARE SHORTER AND THEY HAVE TO HAVE MORE SPEED TO COME FROM BEHIND. AND THEN OF COURSE, THE BELMONT, WHICH THEY CALL THE TEST OF CHAMPIONS, AND CERTAINLY IT IS BECAUSE IT IS A GRUELING MILE AND ONE-HALF (TWELVE FURLONGS) RACE. SO,/THEY ARE THREE VERY DIFFERENT RACES AND YOU MUST HAVE A VERY TALENTED AND A VERY VERSATILE HORSE TO SWEEP THE THREE LEGS OF THE TRIPLE CROWN."

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VOICE: CAWOOD LEDFORD, VETERAN RACE CALLER, WITH HIS OBSERVATONS ON THE KENTUCKY DERBY, THE FIRST JEWEL IN THE TRIPLE CROWN OF HORSE RACING.

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